

Office of the Attorney General State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

September 10, 1998

Ms. E. Cary Grace Assistant City Attorney City of Houston P.O. Box 1562 Houston, Texas 77251-1562

OR98-2142

Dear Ms. Grace:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 117954.

The City of Houston (the "city") received a request for a copy of the entire file relating to the requestor's assault complaint. You indicate that the front page offense report information has been made available to the requestor.¹ You contend that the remaining information is excepted from disclosure pursuant to section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and have reviewed the documents at issue.

Section 552.108(a) excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime . . . if: (1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime; [or] (2) it is information that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime only in relation to an investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication." You explain that the investigation of the requestor's assault complaint did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication because the district attorney rejected charges on all suspects named in the case. Accordingly, we conclude that the city may withhold the information relating to the case from disclosure under section 552.108(a)(2).

¹Information normally found on the front page of an offense report is generally considered public. See Gov't Code § 552.108(c); Houston Chronicle Publ'g Co. v. City of Houston, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976); Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976).

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

Karen E. Hattaway

Assistant Attorney General Open Records Division

KEH/mjc

Ref: ID# 117954

Submitted documents Enclosures:

Ms. Shirley Lablanche cc:

12806 Southspring Houston, Texas 77047

(w/o enclosures)